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The text is supplemented by a pamphlet of *problems, topics*, and a classified *bibliography*, which the teacher can either use as a guide for elaborating the subject, or place in the hands of the students.

Though many geographers will find difficulty in accepting the author's restrictions on the scope of commercial geography as expressed in the preface, they are well taken for a book of this type and grade. As a whole it is a highly satisfactory text-book, comparing favorably with the best which have been previously published.

G. T. SURFACE.

*Yale University.*

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**Smart, W.** *Economic Annals of the Nineteenth Century, 1801-1820.* Pp.

xxxvi, 778. Price, \$6.50. New York: Macmillan Company, 1910.

This volume is a most useful addition to the literature of the economic history of Great Britain. In his work as a member of the Royal Commission on the Poor Laws and the Relief of Distress, Professor Smart came to realize the imperative need of more detailed information concerning "the history of the working world," in order to understand why poverty has existed and still persists. He decided to use "the remainder of his years to help on the science" of economics by writing the annals of the economic history of England during the nineteenth century.

The author's materials are drawn mainly from "Hansard's Debates" which have evidently been studied from cover to cover. The other fruitful sources of information were the "innumerable reports of committees and commissions." In making his record of economic events in England during the first twenty years of the century Professor Smart has given prominence to three questions—protection, the "cyclical movement" (ebb and flow of prosperity), and taxation.

An English economist, using parliamentary debates for his material, would naturally give much space, in an economic annals of the years 1800 to 1820, to Adam Smith's doctrines and to the agitation for free trade. It is probable that the industrial and social progress of the United Kingdom during those years was less influenced by fiscal legislation than economists are wont to assume; but the burdens placed upon industry by taxation of all kind during the prolonged period of the Napoleonic wars were a serious handicap to business and an account of the economic history of those years must needs pay special attention to the theories and practice of taxation.

The attention of public men and writers in England from 1800 to 1815 was not so much upon domestic economic affairs as upon the life and death struggle against Napoleon. For this reason, as Professor Smart says, "the domestic annals were very scanty—nobody apparently thinking it worth while to record the humbler events at home when the destiny of Europe was being determined on the continent. It is but natural that this first volume of the nineteenth century economic annals should devote much space to England's share in the war against Napoleon. That war meant heavy taxes, high prices, and curtailed markets. "In a sense, the history of the war during

these years is the history of England." The author, however, has kept to the path of economic history, and has apportioned his space fairly as between domestic and international economic affairs.

EMORY R. JOHNSON.

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**Turner, John K.** *Barbarous Mexico.* Pp. 340. Price, \$1.50. Chicago: Charles H. Kerr & Co., 1911

It is exceedingly difficult to pass judgment on this book without entering with considerable detail into the social and political development of Mexico during the last three decades. The work occupies about the same relation to the conditions of social progress in Mexico as Lawson's book on "Frenzied Finance" toward the history of American economic and financial growth. If it were possible to make a composite book of the works of Creelman, Godoy and Turner we would approach an accurate estimate of the present situation. Unfortunately for Mexico, Mr. Turner found himself compelled to write a series of Mexican articles which would not only arouse some interest on the part of those who were studying Latin-American affairs, but which would also attract the attention of the general public. He has, therefore, done for Mexican social conditions what Lawson did for American finance, namely, to throw the high-lights on the shortcomings of the present situation. In so doing he has created a distinctly false impression as to the present condition in Mexico. It would be useless to enter into a controversy with the author with reference to the accuracy of his facts. Even if true, the impression which he creates in the reader's mind would be none the less false. He fails to place his descriptions in their proper settings or perspective.

The most superficial study of Mexican history and present conditions must convince one that in a country in which so large a percentage of the population is illiterate, with a relatively low standard of living, it is physically impossible for the government to prevent abuses on the large landed estates in which the agricultural laborer finds himself completely at the mercy of the land owner, or, to be more correct, at the mercy of superintendents and managers. It would require an administrative organization far more elaborate than any American or European country has as yet developed in order adequately to protect the agricultural laborers against the oppressive methods of the less enlightened employers.

No one will deny that Mexico has many and exceedingly difficult problems to deal with, but it is unfortunate here in the United States, where there still prevails such widespread ignorance concerning the real conditions existing in Mexico, that works purporting to be a fair picture should be of so misleading a character.

L. S. ROWE.

*University of Pennsylvania.*